

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 05887 241540Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 IO-06 PM-03
SP-02 L-01 H-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 MCE-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-10 EB-04 /067 W
-----034719 242324Z /65

R 241511Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9415
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T JIDDA 5887

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SO, US
SUBJ: ARMS FOR SOMALIA

REF: STATE 195953

1. DURING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY
MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ABDUL RAHMAN AL-
MANSOURI ON AUG 24, DCM SAID THAT USG HAD DECIDED
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 05887 241540Z

TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION TO SUPPLY
MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA AND HAD ALSO DECIDED
THAT IT COULD NOT NOW AUTHORIZE THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFER
OF FMS-ORIGIN ITEMS. DCM ADDED THAT USG WAS NOT DIS-
COURAGING TRANSFER OF NON-U.S. ORIGIN ARMS BY THIRD
COUNTRIES TO SOMALIA BUT FAVORED A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

2. MANSOURI EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER USG DECISION AND REPEATED HIS EARLIER LINE THAT SAG WAS PLEASED BY SOMALI EFFORTS TO "DISTURB" MENGISTU REGIME BY MAKING TROUBLE FOR ETHIOPIA IN THE OGADEN. MANSOURI ADDED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS SUPERVISOR TO CONVEY TO DCM SAG'S DESIRE TO ARRANGE PAYMENT FOR U.S. ARMS FOR SOMALIA ALONG SAME LINES AS ARRANGEMENTS FOR PAYMENT OF SAUDI-FINANCED U.S. ARMS FOR JORDAN. DCM REPLIED THAT FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, FORM OF PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS WAS NOT RELEVANT IN LIGHT OF USG DECISION TO DELAY. DCM ADDED THAT USG IN FUTURE HOPED TO ESTABLISH DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SAUDI FINANCING OF U.S. ARMS SALES TO THIRD COUNTRIES. THIS PART OF DISCUSSION IS REPORTED SEPTEL.

2. MANSOURI THEN ASKED WHAT USG GOALS WERE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. DCM REPLIED THAT USG WAS CONCERNED BY SOMALI APPARENT ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE BORDER WITH ETHIOPIA. THIS VIOLATED LONG-STANDING OAU PRINCIPLE. USG HOPED TO AVOID CREATING SITUATION IN AREA WHICH WOULD LEAD TO LONG-TERM INSTABILITY. IN LONG RUN USG WOULD, OF COURSE, LIKE TO SEE MODERATE AND STABLE GOVERNMENTS IN AREA, ALL OF WHOM WERE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE UNITED STATES. MANSOURI REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT USG NEEDED TO DEVELOP A MORE SPECIFIC AND ACTIVE POLICY TO BRING ABOUT THESE GOALS.

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PAGE 03 JIDDA 05887 241540Z

3. DCM THEN ASKED IF SAG HAD DETECTED ANY SIGNS OF A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN SOVIET PRESENCE IN SOMALIA. MANSOURI ANSWERED THAT SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE HAD ASSURED SAG THAT IT WOULD REDUCE THE SOVIET PRESENCE IF SOME ALTERNATIVE WERE AVAILABLE. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE REALISTIC TO EXPECT SOMALIA TO REDUCE ITS SUPPORT ON THE SOVIET UNION AT THE VERY TIME IT WAS ENGAGED IN ACTIVE HOSTILITIES. IF THE USG MAKES AN ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE, HOWEVER, SOMALIA WOULD BE HAPPY TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS.

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Disposition Reason:
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